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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Executive Registry
83-3050

June 13, 1983

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY
THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR POLICY DEVELOPMENT
THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
THE ADMINISTRATOR, GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
THE DIRECTOR, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
THE CHAIRMAN, FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
THE MANAGER, NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

SUBJECT: National Security Decision Directive-97 (NSDD-97), National Security Telecommunications Policy (C)

The President has approved and signed the attached NSDD-97 on National Security Telecommunications Policy. NSDD-97 replaces the current PD-53 and establishes a revised policy and oversight procedure for enhancing the ability of government and commercial telecommunications systems to support national security leadership requirements during wartime. (C)

FOR THE PRESIDENT:

William P. Clark

Attachment
NSDD-97

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NATIONAL SECURITY DECISION DIRECTIVE NUMBER 97

WASHINGTON

June 13, 1983

NATIONAL SECURITY TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY (U)

This directive provides the policy, objectives, and principles for continued development of a national telecommunications infrastructure to support and enhance the nation's deterrence posture and national security during periods of international tension, threat of war, wartime, and to restore critical national functions following the cessation of hostilities. (C)

The nation's domestic and international telecommunications resources, including commercial, private, and government-owned services and facilities, are essential elements in support of U.S. national security policy and strategy. A survivable telecommunications infrastructure able to support national security leadership is a crucial element of U.S. deterrence. National security leadership requirements are those embodied in the President's responsibilities as Commander in Chief, Head of State, and Chief Executive; those requirements include, but are not limited to, the ability for: (U)

- gathering intelligence and conducting diplomacy; (U)
- ensuring continuity of command and control of military forces; and (U)
- providing for continuity of government and essential functions thereof. (U)

It must be manifestly apparent to a potential enemy that the U.S. ability to maintain continuity of command and control of all military forces, and conduct other essential national leadership functions cannot be eliminated by a nuclear attack. If deterrence fails, the national telecommunications infrastructure must possess the functional characteristics of connectivity, redundancy, interoperability, restorability, and hardness necessary to provide a range of telecommunications services to support these essential national leadership requirements. Planning and resource allocation must occur to provide for facilities and systems able to assure essential telecommunications in a stressed environment. Proper implementation of this policy will also improve the nation's overall emergency preparedness posture. (U)

OBJECTIVES: To fulfill these requirements, I direct that the nation's telecommunications capabilities be developed or improved, and implementing procedures established, to provide for: (U)

- support for the vital functions of worldwide intelligence collection and diplomacy; (U)

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- a reliable and enduring threat assessment capability; (U)

- assured connectivity between the National Command Authority and military forces; (U)

- support of military mobilization as directed by the President; and (U)

- continuity of government and national leadership during and after crisis situations and recovery of critical national functions following crisis situations. (U)

PRINCIPLES: In support of these objectives, the following policy principles are established: (U)

- A survivable and enduring national telecommunications capability will be established to support national security leadership requirements. It should be composed of government, commercial, and private facilities, systems, and networks, and include the specific automated information processing resources which are embedded in, or support, the component telecommunications facilities and systems and their associated data bases. (C)

- Many national security leadership telecommunications requirements will depend upon dedicated government systems to support the most essential and time-sensitive missions. There will also be continued reliance upon government, commercial, or private telecommunications resources for critical government-wide telecommunications during periods of international tension, threat of war, wartime, and following the cessation of hostilities. (C)

- Telecommunications to support national security leadership requirements are essential and have priority in the initiation, operation, and restoration of services and facilities during periods of international tension, threat of war, wartime, and following the cessation of hostilities. (U)

- An enduring and survivable control mechanism, to include minimum orderwire communications, must be established and operated to direct and manage the initiation, coordination, restoration, and reconstitution of telecommunications services and facilities required in support of national security leadership requirements. (U)

- Functionally similar government telecommunications networks and facilities should be designed to provide the ability to rapidly and automatically interchange traffic in support of national security leadership requirements. (U)

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- As required, and to the extent financially and technically feasible, critical government and commercial telecommunications facilities located outside of likely nuclear target areas should be capable of rapid interconnection and interoperation. Future government and commercial facilities should, to the maximum extent possible and necessary to fulfill the objectives of this directive, take into account the requirement to locate outside of likely nuclear target areas. (C)

- As required, and to the extent financially and technically practicable, the survivability and interoperability of commercial satellite telecommunications resources should be enhanced to support the objectives of this directive. (C)

- The objectives of this directive shall be applied to both U.S. Government-owned and non-U.S. Government-owned telecommunications facilities and services serving U.S. diplomatic posts, intelligence activities, and military forces abroad. (C)

- Telecommunications enhancements undertaken pursuant to this directive shall provide realistic improvements to the telecommunications capability that currently exists. (U)

IMPLEMENTATION: A Steering Group consisting of the Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), the Executive Agent of the National Communications System (NCS), the Associate Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for National Security and International Affairs, and chaired by the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, or his representative, is established. This Steering Group shall: (U)

- oversee this directive and ensure its implementation. It shall provide guidance to the Manager, NCS, concerning all activities consistent with this directive; (U)

- approve initiatives to be undertaken to enhance national security telecommunications capabilities pursuant to this directive; (U)

- address, in consultation with relevant operating agencies, the delegation of funding and implementation responsibilities for approved telecommunications enhancement initiatives consistent with this directive; (U)

- on a continual basis, review the status of the NCS, including authorities and membership criteria, and recommend to the President changes in existing NCS authorities or membership essential to support the objectives of this directive; (U)

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- approve the establishment of working groups necessary to assist in the implementation of this directive; (U)

- monitor the ongoing activities of the National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee (NSTAC) and ensure that the objectives and principles of this directive are addressed. In this respect, it shall provide guidance to the Chairman of the NSTAC through the Designated Federal Official; (U)

- confer, when appropriate, with the Emergency Mobilization Preparedness Board (EMPB) and the Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency, concerning issues of mutual interest; and (U)

- with Presidential approval, amend or revise the objectives and/or principles contained herein as national security needs require. (U)

The Manager, NCS, shall:

- consult with and take direction from the Steering Group regarding the implementation of this directive; (U)

- ensure the development, in conjunction with NCS operating agencies, of plans to fulfill the principles and objectives stated in this directive, including an overall telecommunications architecture and timetable. (U)

- function as the overall coordinator, in consultation with the designated implementing agency, for each initiative approved by the Steering Group pursuant to this directive; (U)

- ensure that all activities in support of this policy directive are fully coordinated with the Executive Agent and all NCS principals; (U)

- develop, for review by the Steering Group, overall budget profiles regarding approved initiatives and related activities; (U)

- develop plans, in consultation with the NSTAC, for an effective mechanism to manage and control the initiation, coordination, restoration, and reconstitution of existing commercial telecommunications services and facilities to support national security telecommunications leadership requirements; (U)

- consult with the FCC, as appropriate, concerning this directive; and (U)

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- prepare annually, or as otherwise directed, a written report to the Steering Group on the progress of approved initiatives, including an assessment of the resources that will be required to attain the objectives of this directive. (U)

The National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee shall:

- provide to the President and the Executive Agent, NCS, information and advice from the perspective of the telecommunications industry with respect to the implementation of this policy directive and periodically report to the President, through the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, and the Secretary of Defense in his capacity as Executive Agent for the NCS, and (U)

- serve as a forum, when appropriate, for joint industry and government planning to support this directive. (U)

All Departments and Agencies shall:

- incorporate the provisions of this policy directive when modifying their current telecommunications facilities, systems or networks or planning new ones; (U)

- as deemed necessary or as required, provide information and assistance to, and consult with, the Steering Group in support of this directive; (U)

- make necessary and appropriate information available, through the Executive Agent, NCS, to commercial carriers, or other appropriate private sector telecommunications operators and providers to facilitate their planning of backbone facilities and control centers, where possible, outside of likely nuclear target areas; (U)

- make necessary and appropriate information available to the Office of the Manager, NCS, regarding all agency telecommunications initiatives in support of the objectives of this directive; (U)

- consistent with the provisions of Executive Order 12046, and in coordination with the Executive Agent, NCS, consult with the FCC on implementing the provisions of this policy directive; (U)

- as deemed appropriate and necessary to support national security leadership requirements, and in consultation with the Steering Group, apply the objectives and principles of this directive to government-owned and nongovernment-owned international telecommunications services and facilities serving U.S. facilities abroad; and (C)

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- submit progress reports annually, or as otherwise requested, to the Steering Group, in coordination with the Manager, NCS, regarding agency actions on approved initiatives and other activities in support of this directive. (U)

This directive is not intended to interfere with the special operational or security requirements of any agency during normal or during wartime situations. (U)

Telecommunications functions not associated with national security leadership requirements are excluded from the scope of this directive. (U)

Nothing in this directive amends or contravenes Presidential Directive/NSC-24. (U)

Presidential Directive/NSC-53 is hereby superseded and canceled. (U)

Ronald Reagan

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